Writing of steel development fund loan

896. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT. RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has asked Government to write off steel development fund loan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of restructuring plan of SAIL to hive off non-economic units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) on financial restructuring, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has approached the Government for its financial restructuring which primarily envisages relief from Steel Development Fund (SDF) loan/Government of India loan towards writing down of fixed assets to the extent of interest capitalized, writing-off of loans and advances given by SAIL to IISCO, etc.

(c) The IDBI have, in their report, inter-alia, concluded that SAIL should consider business solutions as a long-term strategy for improving operations and enhancing returns such as rationalisation/ divestment of idle or non-core assets, divestment from unrelated/non-core operations, and of loss making units etc.

Import of coal and coke

897. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government support import of coal and coke;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received against the import of coke; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Integrated steel plants of SAIL, RINL and TISCO consume about 20 million tonnes of Coking Coal per annum. Out of this about 12 million Tonnes are from domestic sources and has a high ash content, and the rest is imported. The imports are undertaken to bridge the quantitative and qualitative shortfall in the domestic supply. Metallurgical Coke of desired quality for use in Mini Blast Furnaces is also not available in adequate quantity indigenously and is hence imported.

(c) and (d) Representations had been received against import of Chinese Coke at low prices. An anti-dumping petition was filed by M/s BLA Industries, Gujarat before the Designated Authority on behalf of the domestic coke industry supported by M/s Industries and Commerce Association, Dhanbad against the import of metallurgical coke from China in to India. The Authority after investigating the matter gave its final findings on 27.8.98. As per the Notification dated 27.10.1998 an anti-dumping duty equivalent to the difference between Rs. 4673 and the landed value of Metallurgical Coke per metric tonne has been imposed when the same is originating in or is exported from Peoples' Republic of China and imported into India. The anti-dumping duty so levied comes into effect from 6.5.98 i.e. the date of imposition of provisional duty.

Revival of Rourkela Steel Plant

898. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) after modernisation is facing acute financial crisis;

(b) if so, the present loss per day of Rourkela Steel Plant;